PIOs in Malaysia

†1379. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Indian origin living in Malaysia have to face harsh behaviour there;

(b) the details of the organizations which are engaged in providing relief work to these people over there; and

(c) whether Government of Malaysia also treat these organizations harshly and the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) There is a large community of persons of Indian origin in Malaysia who are citizens of that country and are well integrated in the Malaysian society. The population of Malaysian citizens of Indian origin stands at about 1.9 million, which accounts for about 8% of the total population of Malaysia. Indians are the third largest ethnic group in Malaysia, after Malays and Chinese. Malaysia officially celebrates customs, traditions and religions of its multi-racial population. The people of Indian origin are active in various walks of the Malaysian society, economy and polity, including in the Government and their rights as Malaysian citizens are also derived from the Malaysian constitution.

Malaysian citizens of Indian origin have various political, cultural, social and business organisations to articulate their views, concerns and grievances. They publically express their concerns and grievances from time to time regarding their standing in the country and seek remedial action from the Government of Malaysia.

Indo-Pak meeting of foreign secretaries

†1380. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the meeting of foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan is going to be held;

(b) if so, the agenda of that meeting; and

(c) the action taken by Pakistan so far on assurances given to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Yes. In Prime Minister's meeting with the President of Pakistan on the sidelines of the SCO-BRIC summit in Yekaterinburg on 16th June 2009, it was agreed that the two Foreign Secretaries would discuss the primary issue of terrorism before the leaders of India and Pakistan met on the sidelines of the NAM summit at Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt in mid-July, 2009.

(c) Pakistan has assured us that it would not permit territories under its control to be used for terrorism against India. We have conveyed to Pakistan the full extent of our expectation that the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.